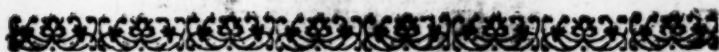


A  
LETTER  
TO A  
Member of PARLIAMENT.



(Price Four-pence.)

THE PARLIAMENTARY

LETTER

TO A

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

BY

(The Editors)

A  
LETTER  
TO A  
MEMBER  
OF  
*PARLIAMENT:*  
Upon the  
Present STATE  
OF THE  
NATION.

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LONDON:

Printed for J. ROBERTS, in *Warwick-*  
*Lane.* MDCCXIX.

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LONDON

Printed for J. ROBERTS, in Strand.  
Lanc. MDCCLX.



Common Seal.

Thus, Sir, I have a right to trouble  
you with my humble petition, and to make my  
the nation, and to make my  
things as they are read and  
only leaving it to your hands to  
take them as usual in any other  
**LETTER**  
**TO A**  
**Member of Parliament, &c.**

Nov. 14, 1718.

SIR,



**THOUGH** the People  
of *Britain* manage the  
publick affairs only by  
a select number depu-  
ted out of their Body  
to meet the KING in  
PARLIAMENT; and  
so ought not in any other way to concern  
themselves in the administration: Yet  
there remains to them a privilege of cor-  
responding

responding with their representatives, and even of considering national matters, so far as they fall within the observation of Common Sense.

Thus, Sir, I have a right to trouble you with my thoughts upon the state of the nation, and freely to make my reflections on things as they are *real* and *in fact*; only leaving it to wiser heads to take them as usual in any other view it may be possible to have them placed.

AS it is an undoubted truth that *A Kingdom divided against it self cannot stand*; we have the greatest reason to be apprehensive of very fatal consequences from the violent diffentions among us: 'Tis true indeed divisions are no new thing; former ages were no less liable to them than our own: But then, a most pernicious circumstance in our present case, is, that they are not only about Sects and Parties, but even (so are we infatuated!) the very Common Good! The controversy of our day is, whether *our own* religion,

ligion, lives, and liberties, are worth preserving or no?

Nor ever have our intestine feuds, *till now*, risen to such a height as to give occasion to a foreign enemy openly to insult the Legislature; and professedly to triumph in the advantages they cannot (it seems) fail of finding in them. A burning shame this! an eternal reproach to our country, if you will suffer it to rest upon us; and not resent, to his confusion, this unprecedented Insolence of a Scoundrel Cardinal!

Nor think it is only the popular frenzy he refers to; since unreasonable debates of a higher sort are no less notorious. What signifies it that the regulation of button-holes may pass with a *Nemine Contradicente*, if matters of the last importance to the very being of our constitution must be *always* opposed to the very utmost?

*Hæc Ithacus velit, & magno mercentur Atreidæ.*  
The

The conduct of the late *Spanish* Minister here, was a degree more impudent even than Count *Gyllenborg's*. That gentleman violated his sacred character, by secretly transacting, under the security of it, a villany, which This endeavour'd to promote *Bare-faced*; and has succeeded so far at least, as to create a faction for his master among us; and very warmly they seem to be engaged for him. How loud were, they a while ago in applauding the Cardinal's bravery "in bidding Sir *GEORGE BING* welcome into the "*Mediterranean*; and refering him to the "*Spanish Fleet*? And now, they are as loud in exclaiming with him, "that he "knew nothing of Sir *GEORGE'S* "coming, till after he had beaten them!

Does it not then lay upon you, to take into serious consideration the state of our publick divisions, and in time to put an effectual stop to them? And what scarce would you need to do more, than *Set us an example* of unanimity and agreement at least, in all the measures whereon our common

common safety depends ! Nay, were such a good Disposition to obtain no further, we might e'en venture to dismiss all our fears,——for, to say the truth, our danger is not from the quarrels *Without-doors*. Not but that there are very many malecontents ; and perhaps even a majority, such as it is, ready to side with any Enemy, be it *Swede* or *Spaniard*, *Pope* or *Turk*, no matter who ! But, as these mostly consist of the irrational part of our gentry, the gross of the clergy, the refuse of the female sex, and the very scum of the populace ; I say, as they are thus despicable in their power and understanding, we have little reason to account them formidable for their numbers.

This unnatural temper is the effect of their zealous attachment to the Pretender ; whose interests they suppose are promoted in every difficulty with which the kingdom may be embroil'd. But then in good earnest, ought they not gravely to recollect, what mighty part can they have in the fortunes of that gentleman, worth  
 B their

their wishing all the calamities to their Country, that a forreign and a civil war can bring upon us ? And what is the goodly prize they contend for ? No less than the perpetuating a succession of *Po-pish* kings ! than the entailing superstition and slavery upon us and our heirs for ever ! and all this too, (very suitably 'tis confess'd,) to take place in a person proscrib'd by our laws ! One, that has a publick price set upon his head, as well by Royal Proclamation of Queen *Anne* of glorious memory, as by her *Tory* Parliament ! One, that is expelled all the kingdoms of *Europe* ; and with his vagrant retinue has a Subsistence from the *Pope* !

'Tis pleasant enough to observe, how these creatures come to be besotted to this degree ; and by what wretched sophistry they are seduced thus.

The Gentry are told, we are loaded with taxes, and the nation encumber'd with immense debts :—and this, to engage them in favour of one who must of necessity

necessity *double the weight of them* ! Nor is this cry in itself less false than it is ridiculous. We are to make an Estimate of publick debts and taxes, from those of our neighbours; and every body knows they have risen but in proportion, and much less, with us to what they have done with any of them. The subjects in other countries are *really* poor and miserable : But God be thanked ! we, for all our complaints, live in a land of ease and happiness. And whatever some shallow observers pretend of better times before the *Revolution*, it is certain there is a much greater plenty of money now : What would then have been a fortune for a lady, may be had now with an inn-keeper's daughter; and the furniture of a tailor's house now-a-days, would have been then too fine for a baronet's.

The Clergy are to be reckon'd rather among the missionaries of the Pretender, than the proselites to him; and very laborious they have been in his cause. They not only preach trea-

son and sedition, but also (contrary to custom) enforce their doctrine by their own practice. They would indeed have it thought it is the zeal of God's house that has thus eaten them up, — but, though they roar out the danger of the Church of *England*, it is to *Rome* they direct us to run for Help!

The Ladies are debauch'd by that Wag *Lesley*. He raised a report that the Pretender is another *King Charles the second*: This, with the cry that follow'd, of *Down with the Rump*; which they accordingly took in a direct carnal sense, has set all the Girls agog; and seems to have had an Influence not only in *Drury-lane* and other parts of *Britain*, but even as far as *Poland*.

The Mob for their part are work'd upon in their own way; with meer noise, and a sound of words they understand nothing of. When there is any call for these, 'tis no more than setting some deep-mouth'd fellow to *open*; then *Hark to Fowler!* and away

away they run in full cry as if the devil were in them. The word commonly on these occasions (though now grown somewhat stale) is, *The Church! The Church!*

*But in what Region this same Church remains,  
Tell that; and be a Wizzard for thy Pains.*

As the motives of these people's affection to the Pretender are thus extravagant; so no less are the grounds of their prejudice against the KING and the ROYAL FAMILY. I must pass over the horrid personal scandals and most impudent lies propagated among them, as too Brutish to be repeated; and only mention their ill-contrived objections against the Government. Their great grievance, and even what drove them to open rebellion, was, that his Majesty did not continue the *Jacobite Ministry*; and particularly turn'd out of the service, the *General* and *Secretaries* of the Pretender! The next matter of discontent, was, that he suffer'd any of the rebels when taken, to be

be executed according to the standing laws of our own and all other countries!

Thus, Sir, to state their arguments, is to ridicule them; as to take a full view of the party, is to contemn them!

So that you may well continue to think they do not deserve your notice; and indeed in themselves they do not. ALBERONI will be but deceiv'd at last; for, though they make a terrible noise, and should even break out into open rebellion again, it will all come to nothing: Be it provided only, that they have no Member of Parliament to head them any more.

But then it requires your consideration, whether you ought not to vindicate the character of the nation, and the honour of it abroad; and to see that it do not suffer from the wickedness and folly of these people. It is your part to convince the world, that it is not a deficiency in our constitution, but a (perhaps faulty) indul-

indulgence peculiar to it, that permits known professed enemies to breath in open Air ; and those that declare against our laws and happy settlement, to live notwithstanding under the protection of them.

It may also be worth your care to prevent the further spreading of this Infection ; and for that end, to enquire how it is that a spirit of sedition is thus raised and fomented amongst us.

You will find this detestable work is carry'd on with a great deal of industry and application : And by several methods, besides these already mention'd, according to the different capacities of the persons employ'd in it. Some there are, busy in starting disputes and questions of a very high nature, on purpose to perplex and disturb people, that are not (one in ten thousand) capable of deciding them. The most weighty affairs of state ; nay the very title to the crown, and that in a way it can only be judged of by the  
united

united and highest wisdom of the nation, is yet submitted to the censure of every coxcomb.

And scruples on that head (as it still ridiculously happens) are urged even to such as have *actually sworn Allegiance* to his Majesty; and in the same most solemn manner, have *actually abjured* the Pretender. But, as perjury is of no weight in the argument with these profligate incendiaries, another plain answer may be made to them, *viz.* That in all kingdoms whatsoever, whether protestant or popish, princes of a religion different to that of the country, are incapable of the government!

And consequently, our own nation must have the same right to exclude *all Papists* from the crown; and to place it on the head of the *next Protestant Heir*; as we have accordingly done, upon our lawful and rightful Sovereign KING GEORGE.

This

This disposition is founded in the necessary reason of things. And the rebels themselves have *in Fact* (if that would convince them) seen the impossibility of admitting a Popish King to a Protestant Government; for when they had borrow'd jewels, and would have proceeded to crown the Pretender in *Scotland*, he could not after all take the coronation-oath!

Besides these profound casuists, there are another sett, whose province it is still to forge and publish fresh matter of Discontent. These go under the name of news-writers; and indeed it is very shocking that any should be allow'd in that profession, who are either downright *Papists convict*, or other undisguised Enemies. Some of these wretches, by an abuse they put upon the stamp-office, bring themselves under a sort of necessity of taking up with some nauseous cant or other, meerly for the sake of filling  
 C their

their paper: It is strange therefore that the commissioners do not think fit to prevent any evasion as to the stamp in this case, as effectually as in that of almanacks. And as to the ill tendency of what I am now speaking; it must be consider'd we are a nation of Politicians, and that the generality of all ranks being utterly ignorant in the history of our own or other countries, form themselves entirely upon these loose papers; some of which being always industriously filled with vile aspersions on the government, and false representations of publick affairs, must consequently have a very bad effect upon them. Nor is it only thus dangerous, but even a downright scandal to the Legislature, that our very publick newspapers should be infamous libels against it. This enormity therefore calls for immediate redress!

These indefatigable workers of iniquity never fail of improving to the utmost

most another particular advantage they have, (and long may they enjoy it!) of freely venting all their treason at *Tyburn*! It is usual with persons in that dismal circumstance to harangue the good company, and give them reasonable warning to avoid coming to the like dreadful end: but these odd fellows directly invert the design of that laudable custom, and do all they can, with their last breath to persuade others to follow them. So that it would be proper, if not wholly to deny them this liberty, yet at least to prevent their surviving brethren from printing, publishing, and dispersing these traitorous speeches; or such like, that happen to be utter'd in *any other privileged place*. Nor are they satisfy'd with bare printing of them in the usual manner, and with decorations suitable to the memoirs of *Tyburn*; but, forsooth, must have them done from copper plates, with effigies in long wigs, and other embellishments very foreign to the occasion.

I might mention another sort of folk, as dangerous for ought I know as any already described, who affect to seem neuter; or rather, alike dissatisfied with either side. These are your men, who will have it that all Ministries are *alike corrupt*! all Statesmen *alike mercenary*! So that, as to themselves we cannot tell what to make of them; but only guess from their way of reasoning, that all Governments also would be *alike uneasy* to them. Yet after all, they must be at bottom of one side or other; and are accordingly rank'd among the male-contentants.

Now upon the whole, the truth of the case is, and so apprehended by all the world, that all our feuds and contentions are now united in these two channels; that we are now no more than *two Parties*, one for our *Protestant King*, the other for a *Popish Pretender*! You are not therefore to look upon us as  
formerly,

formerly, under the distinctions of Whig and Tory, High and Low, &c. but as either *Subjects* or *Rebels*; and in a word, what You ought to do, is really to treat us *as such*!

The only way to prevent the common enemy finding their account in our divisions, is, to resolve for the future that Persons and Things shall be taken directly as they are, and what every one knows them to be; and not as they may be misrepresented by the Glosses and labour'd Oratory of artful and designing Persons. Whatever is done, will still be judged of by our selves, and it seems by Cardinal *Alberoni*, and every body else, by this one plain and certain rule, *viz.* whether it be for the service of His Majesty or the Pretender.

I expect, Sir, that you for your own part will demonstrate on every occasion, that you are thoroughly influenced by a well-govern'd zeal for our present valuable

ble Establishment; and accordingly, I  
assure you, you shall never want the  
vote and interest of

*Honourable SIR,*

*Your hearty Friend,*

*and humble Servant,*

**TRUE BRITON.**